

REMARKS

Claims 2 to 17 are pending. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 to 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,292,440 to Lee ("Lee") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,990,208 to Lau et al. ("Lau").

Claim 17 relates to a device for playing back multimedia files stored in an automotive environment, which includes a storage device and a processor for decoding the multimedia files. Claim 17 provides that the processor includes an element for displaying directories located in the storage device and in which the multimedia data files are contained, as different *virtual data carriers*, and the multimedia data files as different titles on the display, and the different *data virtual carriers* and the different titles are selectable in accordance with an operation of the input apparatus.

It is respectfully submitted that Lee and Lau, either alone or combined, do not disclose, or even suggest, the feature of displaying directories as different *virtual data carriers*, which are selectable in accordance with an operation of an input apparatus, as provided for in the context of claim 17. Indeed, neither Lee nor Lau disclose or suggest virtual data carriers. Instead, Lee merely refers to the features of a basic MP3 audio system, and Lau merely refers to directories with more than one playlist, but their playlist is not a virtual data carrier.

More specifically, Lee refers to a vehicle-based MP3 player, which "conventionally" displays titles or track numbers of the currently played music, and Lau refers to the downloading of music files to a vehicle sound system, in which play lists are employed for organizing the downloaded music files. As in Figs. 14 and 15 of the Lau reference, such play lists are physically created as part of the storage medium, and according to col. 6, lines 17 to 35, of the Lau reference, the hard disk drive exhibits these physically-created play lists in actual directories that exist on the storage medium, (i.e., a directory for the play lists and a directory for the MP3 files, in which the play lists contain the lists of MP3 files and links are provided between the playlists and MP3 files).

Thus, in contrast to the presently claimed subject matter, Lau displays the "real" directory structure of playlists that actually exist as such on the storage medium, whereas the presently claimed subject matter displays virtual data carriers which do not exist as such but are provided as part of the display so that a user can more easily search MP3 files in a format he or she may be more familiar with since the user may have previous operating

CD changers. Moreover, one skilled in the art would not identify a playlist with a data carrier, which, as exemplified in the present application, can include a CD, DVD or hard disk. Hence, the systems of Lee and Lau, either alone or combined, do not disclose or suggest all of the features and advantages of the presently claimed subject matter, with respect to a user exploiting his or her knowledge about navigating CDs and/or CD changers. In this regard, the present application states, for example, on page 1, line 22 to page 2, line 1, that:

It is particularly advantageous that existing data structures are translated into an operating philosophy modeled on a CD changer. In this context, virtual data carriers are assigned to the individual directories in which the multimedia data files are located, for example, CD 1 is assigned to directory 1, and the titles or numbers of the multimedia data files are assigned to the multimedia files contained therein. This results in markedly simplified operation which is very useful, particularly for an automobile driver, since he or she is not distracted by a complicated operation.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 is allowable, as are its dependent claims 4, 6, 8 10 to 16.

Claims 2, 5 and 9 include features like those in claim 17, and are therefore allowable for essentially the same reasons, as are their dependent claims 3 and 7.

In short, the Lee and Lau references, either alone or combined, do not disclose or suggest all of the features of the independent claims, including the feature of displaying directories as different virtual data carriers, so that claims 2 to 17 are allowable.

As further regards the rejections of claims 2 and 3, it is respectfully submitted that Lee and Lau, either alone or combined, do not disclose or even suggest a processor that, together with an operation of an input apparatus, is capable of linking multimedia data files, located on a storage device, to at least one new directory, and that provides an option to store the multimedia data files once again, as provided for in the context of claim 2, as presented. Indeed, the MP3 files referred to by Lee and/or Lau cannot be arranged in a new directory by the user. Accordingly, claim 2 and its dependent claim 3 are allowable for these further reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn. All issues raised by the Examiner have been addressed, the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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